

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 PC-04

DRC-01 /154 W

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R 251301Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3282

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5587

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOR, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO

REFS: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 851; (B) TUNIS 5485

1. BOURGUIBA JR. RECENTLY TOLD ME (SEE REF B) TUNISIANS UNHAPPY WITH STORIES MOROCCANS SPREADING SEEKING TO UNDERCUT MASMOUDI AND WASSILA BOSKGUIBA. IN THIS CONNECTION, FRENCH AMBASSADOR ALSO TOLD ME A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT HE HAD IMPRESSION RELATIONS BETWEEN MOROCCO AND TUNISIA WERE COOLING. HE SAID PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA HAD BEEN UPSET WHEN MOROCCAN EMISSARY COMPLAINED TO HIM ABOUT FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUDI'S ALLEGED ANTI-MOROCCAN ACTIVITIES. HE SAID BOURGUIBA HAD THREATENED TO DENOUNCE KING HASSAN PUBLICLY FOR THIS.

2. EMBASSY SOURCE WITH GOOD FRENCH CONTACTS SAID BOUR-
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GUIBA USED VERY SHARP AND CUTTING LANGUAGE IN REFERENCE

TO KING HASSAN WHEN HE RECEIVED FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY
GROUP HERE SEPTEMBER 22.

3. MEANWHILE, TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO, WHO WAS
MEMBER OF TUNISIAN DELEGATION TO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE,
NOW BEING SENT AS MEMBER OF DELEGATION TO UNGA. HIS
ABSENCE ALSO BEING INTERPRETED AS SIGN OF COOLNESS BETWEEN
TWO COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: ALL OF ABOVE AS WELL AS FACT MOROCCO DELI-
BERATELY EXCLUDED FROM BOURGUIBA'S PROPOSED CONFEDERATION
OF NORTH AFRICAN STATES INDICATES RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO
COUNTRIES ARE NOT GOOD. WE HAVE NOTHING SPECIFIC, HOWEVER,
TO INDICATE BOURGUIBA INTENDS BREAK RELATIONS AT THIS
TIME.
SEELYE

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